



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,947	07/23/2002	Johan Vanbesien	KSN0026	2553

7590 06/30/2004

Eric J Groen
Baker & Daniels
Suite 250
205 West Jefferson Boulevard
South Bend, IN 46601

EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/049,947	VANBESIEN, JOHAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Edwin A. León	2833	

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed March 4, 2004 in which the Drawings and the Specification have been amended, has been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by van Zanten (U.S. Patent No. 6,171,149). With regard to Claim 1, van Zanten discloses an electrical connector (100) for mounting on a printed circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67), comprising a multiplicity of electrical terminal members (103) to be connected to the circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67) and being in the form of a matrix including a plurality of rows and columns each, wherein several terminal member groups (101), each comprising several terminal members (103) in the form of SMT contacts to be

soldered to the circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67), are fixed in a predetermined relative position independently of each other by plastic bodies (105) of their own that are injection-molded thereto, several plastic bodies (105) along with the terminal member groups (101) extending through the same are adapted to be fixed in predetermined relative positions, and the plastic bodies (105) fixed in a predetermined relative position, along with the terminal member groups (101) extending through the same, are movable perpendicularly to the circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67) surface independently of each other. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 2, van Zanten discloses the plastic bodies (105) along with the terminal members (103) extending through the same being movable relative to specific or all remaining constituent parts of the connector (100). See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 3, van Zanten discloses the terminal members (103) of the terminal member groups (101) each being such terminal members (103) that are manufactured in common. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 4, van Zanten discloses the terminal members (103) of the terminal member groups (101) each being such terminal members (103) that can be connected to the circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67) at mutually adjacent locations. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 5, van Zanten discloses the several plastic bodies (105) along with the terminal member groups (101) extending through the same are movable relative to each other. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 6, van Zanten discloses the terminal members (103) extending through the respective plastic bodies (105) are the sole constituent parts each of the connector (100) to which the plastic bodies (105) are connected. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 7, van Zanten discloses the plastic bodies (105) including alignment members (141) molded within the plastic body (105). See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 8, van Zanten discloses the connector (100) including an outer housing (200) having a plurality of spaced apart walls (rear part of 200) arranged in columns, the plastic bodies (105) and the spaced apart walls (rear part of 200) having cooperating alignment members (upper and lower protrusion in the back of 200). See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 9, van Zanten discloses the alignment members (upper and lower protrusion in the back of 200) comprising cooperating grooves and ribs (Column 4, Lines 49-55). See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 10, van Zanten discloses the cooperating grooves and ribs (Column 4, Lines 49-55) being vertically extending. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 11, van Zanten discloses an electrical connector (100) for mounting on a printed circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67), comprising a plurality of electrical terminal members (103) profiled for connection to the circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67) and being in the form of a matrix including a plurality of rows and columns, wherein several terminal member groups (101), each comprising several terminal members (103) in the form of contacts to be soldered to the circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67), are fixed in a predetermined relative position independently of each other by molded plastic bodies (105), several molded plastic bodies (105) along with the terminal member groups (101) extending through the same are adapted to be fixed in predetermined relative positions, and the molded plastic bodies (105), along with the terminal member groups (101) extending through the same, are movable perpendicularly to the circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67) surface independently of each other. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 12, van Zanten discloses the plastic body (105) along with the terminal members (103) extending through the same being movable relative to specific or all remaining constituent parts of the connector (100). See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 13, van Zanten discloses the terminal members (103) of the terminal member groups (101) each being such terminal members (103) that are manufactured in common. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 14, van Zanten discloses the terminal members (103) of the terminal member groups (101) each are such terminal members (103) that can be connected to the circuit board (Column 3, Lines 12-67) at mutually adjacent locations. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 15, van Zanten discloses the several plastic bodies (105) along with the terminal member groups (101) extending through the same are movable relative to each other. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 16, van Zanten discloses the terminal members (103) extending through the respective plastic bodies (105) are the sole constituent parts each of the connector (100) to which the plastic bodies (105) are connected. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 17, van Zanten discloses the plastic bodies (105) including alignment members (141) molded within the plastic body (105). See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 18, van Zanten discloses the connector (100) includes an outer housing (200) having a plurality of spaced apart walls (rear part of 200) arranged

in columns, the plastic bodies (105) and the spaced apart walls (rear part of 200) having cooperating alignment members (upper and lower protrusion in the back of 200). See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 19, van Zanten discloses the alignment members (upper and lower protrusion in the back of 200) comprising cooperating grooves and ribs (Column 4, Lines 49-55). See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

With regard to Claim 20, van Zanten discloses the cooperating grooves and ribs (Column 4, Lines 49-55) are vertically extending. See Figs. 1-9 and 16a, Column 3, Lines 12-67, Column 4, Lines 1-3 and Column 5, Lines 41-55.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed March 4, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's arguments regarding Claims 1 and 11, that the van Zanten reference does not show the plastic bodies and the terminal member groups being independently movable with respect to the circuit board surface, Applicant is reminded that Applicant's claims only call for the plastic bodies and the terminal member groups being independently capable to move or movable with respect to the circuit board surface. As taught in van Zanten, Column 4, Lines 49-55, the assembly *can* have features to secure the sub-assemblies together. Still, the fact that

the assembly *can* have features to secure the sub-assemblies together does not preclude the plastic bodies (105) and the members (103) from moving independently from the others. Furthermore, Applicant is reminded that there is no disclosure in the van Zanten reference about the plastic bodies (105) and the members (103) being permanently attached to each other. Therefore, it is the Examiner's opinion that the plastic bodies (105) and the members (103) are capable of moving independently from the others in the van Zanten reference.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
June 25, 2004


P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800